

## **District II Advisory Board Minutes**

**March 7, 2005**

[www.wichita.gov](http://www.wichita.gov)

The District II Advisory Board meeting was held at 7:00 p.m. at the Rockwell Branch Library, 5939 E. 9<sup>th</sup> Street North. Seven board members, two youth representatives, two staff and three citizens were in attendance. Only those citizens who signed in are listed as guests below.

### **Members Present**

Brian Carduff  
Daryl Crotts  
Sarah Devries  
Ray Frederick  
Tim Goodpasture  
Joe Johnson  
Dane Saksa\*  
Kaci Tucker\*  
Marty Weeks  
Council Member Sue Schlapp

### **Members Absent**

Larry Frutiger  
Matt Hesse  
David Mollhagen  
Phil Ryan

### **Staff Present**

Kelli Glassman, City Manager's Office  
Officer Shirkey, Patrol East

### **Guests**

Connie Dietz, 8310 Greenbriar  
Beth Oaks, 7423 Oxford Ct.

\*Youth Representative

## **ORDER OF BUSINESS**

### **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND AGENDA**

The agenda for March 7, 2005 was approved as submitted (**Carduff/Frederick: 7-0**).

The meeting minutes for February 7, 2005 were approved as submitted (**Carduff/Devries: 7-0**).

### **PUBLIC AGENDA**

#### **1. Scheduled items**

No items were submitted.

#### **2. Off-agenda items**

**Kelli Glassman** was introduced as the new District II neighborhood assistant and was welcomed by the Board.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **3. USD 259 Budget and Activities**

**Connie Dietz, USD 259 Board of Education Vice-President**, presented an update on the current USD 259 budget and activities.

In beginning, **Ms. Dietz** distributed a document detailing the school district budget, which is also available on the USD 259 website. Overall, the USD 259 budget has been cut over the last three years and is expected to be reduced again this year. The largest expenditure for the school district is employee salaries and benefits, increased in part by rising health care expenses. **Ms. Dietz** also stated that a substantial amount of money from the general fund is often transferred to the special education fund since the school district has a large population of severely handicapped students, some of which are transferred from other districts. Some of these students are provided services by the district until they are 21. Special education funding is also used for accelerated learning programs. It was noted that the school district is allotted only so much money per child with special education needs. Therefore, even if federal money for special education expenditures increased, funding at the state level would decrease to balance the total funding received for each special education student. Other issues related to school funding identified include students from low-income families and students who speak English as a second language. In all, these budget cuts could jeopardize providing students with necessary basic education foundations.

In discussing a resolution to this issue, **Ms. Dietz** acknowledged that the local option budget cannot be further increased and a recent court ruling has required the Kansas State legislature to fix school funding deficiencies by April 12. Both the House and Senate have proposed bills which address school funding. It is uncertain what action will be taken if this objective is not met by this date or the courts do not accept the legislature's proposals. Although consolidation of schools could be considered as an alternative to resolving school funding issues, it is unclear if this could be effectively implemented in this area of the state.

**Ms. Dietz** further informed the Board that renovations to Marshall Middle School would be completed by the fall of this year. The Board complimented the architectural designs of other school renovations. **Ms. Dietz** stated that a community celebration would be planned after all school renovations have been completed.

In addition, the bond issue process has been completed and remains on target in almost every school within District II. The entire process should be completed by the start of the 2006 academic year.

The Board thanked Ms. Dietz for her time and dedication to the school district.

**Action Taken:** Receive and File.

### **3. Community Advisory Council**

**Beth Oaks, Community Council on Homeless Advocacy (CCHA) board member**, presented information on the mission of this group and her request of the Board regarding this entity.

The CCHA is an advisory group that provides leadership and advocacy on behalf of the homeless population, for the Wichita/Sedgwick County community. The CCHA also oversees the annual Continuum of Care application for Federal funding to support programs that serve the homeless,

and provides input in the allocation decisions for the City's annual Emergency Shelter Grant allocation.

The Community Advisory Council is a standing committee of the CCHA. The Community Advisory Council comes together to prioritize the individual agency applications for the annual U. S. Department of Housing and Community Development (HUD) Super NOFA (Notice of Funding Availability) grant that provides funding for transitional, supportive and permanent housing to the homeless population. The Super NOFA grant contributes funds in excess of \$1 million in homeless assistance to this community annually.

The annual commitment will consist of 7 to 10 hours of meeting time over a one-month period. The commitment includes both an orientation/training meeting and one or two presentation/ranking meetings. Agency applications are usually due in April or May and committee selection usually takes place in the summer.

HUD regulations require a strong level of community participation in the application review process. For this reason, City staff and Community Advisory Council members are recruiting additional community participation and request that the board designate one or two board members to volunteer(s) to serve on the Community Advisory Council. Therefore, all District Advisory Boards are being approached because of the level of community interest already expressed through the membership on these Boards.

**Dane Saksa** announced that he would like to be a representative on this board if the meetings were held in the summer.

**Action Taken:** It was suggested that designation of the representative(s) to the Community Advisory Council be further considered and deferred until next meeting.

## **STAFF PRESENTATIONS**

### **4. Community Police Report**

**Officer Valerie Shirkey, Patrol East**, presented the Board with a report on several current community policing issues in District II.

In order to decrease auto accidents, each police beat has chosen the highest accident intersection in that area and is working with Traffic Engineering, residents and businesses to make these intersections safer for motorists.

Due to the large construction growth east of the City to the county line, there continues to be an increase in burglary of construction sites. Police have identified a few suspects already and are conducting special assignments to catch the perpetrators.

The Police Department has received a grant this year from the Kansas Department of Transportation to continue work with the JUDGE program. This program allows police to educate businesses and enforce underage tobacco and alcohol purchase laws. New card readers and scanners have been purchased in order to keep up with technology and properly identify potential underage tobacco and alcohol customers.

**Daryl Crotts** inquired about the construction project on North Rock Road between 21<sup>st</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> Street East. There are 30 mph construction zone speed limit signs posted without any construction barriers or visible construction work occurring. **Officer Shirkey** and **Kelli Glassman** replied that they would contact appropriate staff to determine the status of this project and why these signs have remained posted in this area.

*Note: According to staff information, the 30 mph construction zone speed limit signs on North Rock Road from 21st Street to 29th Street East should remain in place until mid-May. The landscape on the medians was changed to warm season grass, which cannot be installed before May 1. This project has been delayed overall due to the women's bowling tournament last summer and the construction speed limit signs cannot be removed until all work is completed, since federal money is being used for this construction.*

The board thanked **Officer Shirkey** for her presentation.

**Action Taken:** Received and filed.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **5. Park Land**

**Tim Goodpasture** and **Daryl Crotts, District Advisory Board II Members**, provided an update on progress in identifying potential park land for acquisition.

**Mr. Crotts** and **Mr. Goodpasture** met with **Doug Kupper, Director of Parks and Recreation**, to identify the funding available and criteria desired for the acquisition of potential park land in District II. Based upon this conversation, **Mr. Crotts** and **Mr. Goodpasture** are contacting several landowners to gauge their interest in this project. Most developers contacted stated that they might be interested in discussing this venture further once their development plans for the land in these areas were solidified.

**Action Taken:** Received and filed.

## **BOARD AGENDA**

### **7. Updates, Issues, and Reports**

No items were submitted.

**With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:17 p.m.**

The next **DAB II meeting** will be **April 4, 2005** at the Rockwell Branch Library.